

REMARKS

Claims 1-53 are pending in the application prior. Claims 1-53 are rejected. Claims 1-9, 12-15 and 20 have been amended to remove the phrase “the steps of”. Claims 22-43 have been amended to remove the term “method”. No other amendments have been made. In light of the above amendments and the foregoing remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,539,498 (Sato) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,170,075 (Schuster et al.).

A telephone interview was conducted between Attorney Michael Cofield and Examiner Tom Stevens on May 10th, 2007. An agreement was reached that the rejection to claims 1-53 has been overcome for at least the following reason:

At least some of the proposed modifications to Sato that are described in the Office Action disrupt the principal operation of Sato and are therefore invalid modifications (MPEP 2143.01 last section illustrates this point). The principal operation of Sato is to debug instructions used on a real device by comparing an output from the real device to a simulator output. *See col. 2, lines 64-67.* To the extent that some of the proposed modifications appear to adjust Sato for causing the simulator output to be identical to the real device output, Sato no longer functions to reveal bugs in the instructions used on the real device. Since the proposed modifications are invalid, claims 1-53 should be allowed.

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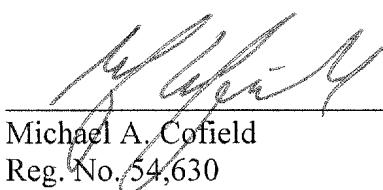
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CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims is requested. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at 503-222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

MARGER JOHNSON & McCOLLOM, P.C.



Michael A. Cofield
Reg. No. 54,630

MARGER JOHNSON & McCOLLOM, P.C.
210 SW Morrison Street, Suite 400
Portland, OR 97204
503-222-3613
Customer No. 20575